

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024**

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

**Committee Question Number: 49**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000057**

**Division/Agency Name: Agency - Airservices Australia**

**Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 77 (12 February 2024)**

**Topic: Airservices – SODPROPS data for Brisbane**

**Senator Matthew Canavan asked:**

Senator CANAVAN: I don't know exactly what the metric should be. I would have thought there would be some measure here that you benchmark and say, 'This many people for this amount of time were impacted previously, and now because of what we've done we've achieved a reduction in X amount.'

Mr Curran: Perhaps to convert these into percentages might be more meaningful for committee members. The data I have to share with you today is the total minutes it has been available that we've used SODPROPS— the change that I was talking about—which was 27,132 for the second half of last calendar year. Those are the sort of meaningful metrics that we can give to communities. We can also give those by time of day—daytime, evening and nighttime. And typically when we find and engage with communities there are more sensitive hours obviously than others. They are very interested in those kinds of details as well. We do publish this data on our website on a quarterly basis.

Senator CANAVAN: Are you saying 27,000 hours you've used these SODPROPS?

Mr Curran: Yes.

Senator CANAVAN: Am I right to say those 27 hours previously—that's over a year, is it?

Mr Curran: It's over six months from June to December 2023.

Senator CANAVAN: If without the use of these SODPROPS, would those 27,000 hours have been flying over people's houses?

Mr Curran: I don't think we can just draw that straight conclusion. We have had SODPROPS in use. We've sought to use it more, and so there's probably another level of detail we would need to provide you on notice.

Senator CANAVAN: I am trying to assess what we have done or the impact. That doesn't work either. Maybe you can take that on notice. Can we get an estimate of what has been the impact of the changes on people living in Brisbane?

[...]

Senator CANAVAN: You said you used SODPROPS before. [...] What was it for the six months for the second half of 2022?

Mr Curran: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator CANAVAN: Can you get me going back to 2019, before COVID. Once we get too far back we will start getting into the COVID period. Can you get me the last six months of 2019 and going forward?

Mr Curran: I can't go earlier than the runway opening, which was in July 2020, because we weren't using that mode of operation. I can go back to the runway opening in July 2020.

ACTING CHAIR (Senator Canavan): Yes, okay, because it's still coming up as an issue, that's all.

**Answer:**

The use of Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations (SODPROPS) in Brisbane aims to maximise flights over water and minimise the impact on the community.

The following table provides data on total SODPROPS availability and movements since the introduction of the new runway. SODPROPS was not possible prior to the new runway commencing operations.

<b>Year</b>	<b>SODPROPS availability (shown in hours)</b>	<b>SODPROPS availability (shown in minutes)</b>	<b>SODPROPS movements</b>
2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020 (from 1 August)	892.4	53545	4836
2021	1583.6	95015	9266
2022	1229.1	73748	8196
2023	766.3	45976	4661

In general, 50% of all operations in Brisbane will be over water due to the orientation of the parallel runways - either arrivals occur over water and departures over land, or arrivals over land and departures over water, depending on the prevailing wind conditions at the time.

SODPROPS seeks to increase the percentage of over water operations by having both arrivals and departures occur over water, when conditions allow. SODPROPS is the preferred operating mode at night, reducing the impact on communities at sensitive times.

The impact of using SODPROPS mode since runway opening in 2020 is that approximately 13,000 flights did not operate over communities close to the airport.